



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point between December 2000 and January 2001. The January 2001 rate was 4.4 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* grew by 120 individuals to 39,940 in January because students returned to the area and were looking for work. Increased employment opportunities in *Manufacturing, Retail Trade*, and *Services* drove the unemployment rate down from one year ago. Between January 2000 and January 2001, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 1.3 percentage points, falling from 5.7 percent in January 2000 to 4.4 percent in January 2001. Over the year, the number of individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 790 but the number of individuals employed increased by 1,270, which drove the unemployment rate down.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 690 from December 2000 to January 2001. The sharp decline in jobs is normal in January because it falls between busy shopping, tourism, and construction seasons. Since holiday-related activities boost the number of jobs in December, the decrease in January is rather dramatic.

Jobs in *Goods-Producing Industries; Construction* and *Manufacturing* dropped by 210 in January 2001. Completion of several construction projects, such as the new Fred Meyer and Walgreen stores and Wal-Mart's expansion, and lack of new construction starts because of cold weather, drove construction jobs down by 160 in January. *Manufacturing* jobs declined by 50 but the decline was minimal and reflects normal seasonal change.

The *Service-Producing Industries* lost 480 jobs in January 2001. Losses were widespread, affecting every industry except *Government Education*, which gained 160 jobs. *Transportation, Communications & Utilities* dropped 90 jobs. *Motor Freight and Transportation by Air* jobs declined because the busy holiday season

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Jan 2001*	Dec 2000	Jan 12000	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	39,940	39,820	39,150	0.3%	2.0%
Unemployment	1,770	1,850	2,250	-4.3%	-21.3%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.6	5.7		
Total Employment	38,170	37,970	36,900	0.5%	3.4%
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,490	41,110	39,650	-1.5%	2.1%
Unemployment	2,100	1,900	2,640	10.5%	-20.5%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	4.7	6.7		
Total Employment	38,390	38,210	37,010	0.5%	3.7%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	32,590	33,280	32,320	-2.1%	0.8%
Goods-Producing Industries	4,390	4,600	4,310	-4.6%	1.9%
Mining & Construction	1,470	1,630	1,500	-9.8%	-2.0%
Manufacturing	2,920	2,970	2,810	-1.7%	3.9%
Service-Producing Industries	28,200	28,680	28,010	-1.7%	0.7%
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,770	1,860	1,840	-4.8%	-3.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,390	1,410	1,470	-1.4%	-5.4%
Retail Trade	7,130	7,420	6,860	-3.9%	3.9%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,440	1,460	1,440	-1.4%	0.0%
Services	7,820	7,940	7,590	-1.5%	3.0%
Government Administration	3,350	3,450	3,340	-2.9%	0.3%
Government Education	5,300	5,140	5,470	3.1%	-3.1%

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

was over. The loss of jobs in *Communications* was because of turnover in the industry and those jobs will likely be replaced in the future.

Trade (Wholesale and Retail) lost 310 jobs. Normal job losses for this time of the year occurred in *General Merchandise Stores, Food Stores, Eating and Drinking Establishments*, and *Miscellaneous Retail Stores*.

Services suffered 120 job losses, which occurred in *Hotels and Other Lodging Places* and *Business Services* because holiday travel ended, and temporary jobs for the holiday season ended.

Government Administration lost 120 jobs, because of seasonal-related adjustments in *Federal Government - Post Offices* and *Forest Service*, and in *Local Government - Administration*.

From one-year-ago, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* jumped by 270. The change in the number of jobs between January 2000 and January 2001 occurred primarily in *Manufacturing* (110), *Retail Trade* (270), and *Services* (230). *Manufacturing* showed small increases in nearly every sector, but most growth occurred in *Food Processing* and *All Other Nondurable Goods*. *Retail Trade* growth occurred in *General Merchandise Stores* because Wal-Mart expanded and Fred Meyer opened their new Super Store.

Services increased in *Business Services, Social Services*, and *Engineering & Management Services*. The trend toward call centers and utilization of temporary staffing agencies contributed to increases in *Business Services*. In-

creased business activity and population contributed to job growth in *Social Services* over the year.

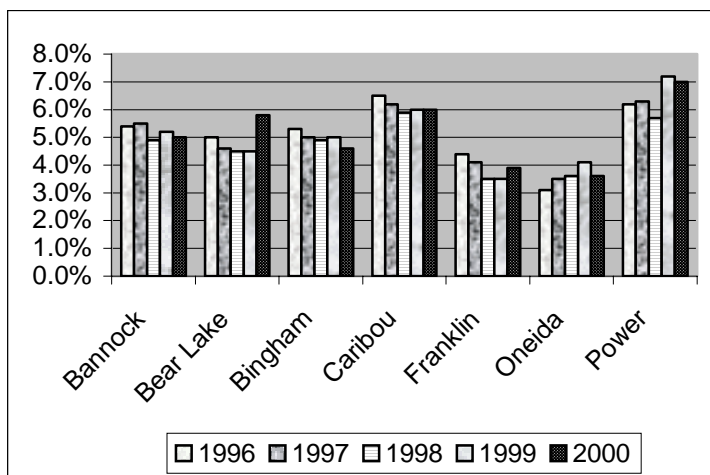
SPECIAL TOPIC: AVERAGE ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Unemployment rates are based on several factors, one of which is the monthly survey of households. The rates are released on the first Friday of each month, except in February, when the release of the January unemployment rate is postponed for annual adjustments by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Labor force data, which includes Civilian Labor Force, Unemployment, Percent of Labor Force Unemployed (commonly referred to as the Unemployment Rate), and Employment, is released in Idaho on the first Friday as a forecast, then it is revised based on more input and released one month later as a revised rate. Labor force data is adjusted once a year using updated employment information. The annual 2000 adjustment occurred this month and the adjusted annual average unemployment rates for counties were released. Graph 1 shows adjusted unemployment rates by county for the past five years.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Southeast Idaho Graph 1:
Adjusted Unemployment Rates for Past 5 yrs



- As a part of the National Fire Plan, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest expects to hire approximately 60 new positions. Positions will be split between permanent and seasonal or temporary positions. The National Fire Plan was designed to increase firefighting readiness, restore burned areas, and reduce the risk of fire.
- A new business, B&L Doors, Windows, and Trim, has opened in Montpelier. The business is located at 829 Washington.
- J.E. Merit, the general contractor for Agrium's purified phosphate manufacturing project in Soda Springs, received OSHA's Star Award for safety compliance. The designation as an OSHA Star Facility is unique as the construction phase is expected to last just 18 months. Because of the difficulty and length of time it takes to qualify for the Star designation, it is unusual for the award to be given to a temporary project. Caribou County boasts the designation of the safest place in the world to work as nine of its businesses have received the prestigious award.
- Franklin County was featured on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. A production crew for the show spent time in Franklin County touring unique operations such as Ritewood Eggs in Preston, a potato operation in Weston, and filming unique geography in the area.
- Astaris (formerly FMC) laid off 21 workers at their Power County facility. The company shut down the operation of two of their four furnaces used in the production of elemental phosphorus because of the cost of power. The job reductions will most likely be permanent.
- Pocatello hosted the 2001 Simplot Games in February, the largest prep indoor track and field meet in the western United States. More than 2,000 athletes competed in the meet, which was held at Idaho State University's Holt Arena. For the second year, the Adidas Golden Spike Invitational, one of the top indoor track and field meets in the world for Olympic gold medalists and U.S. champions, was held in conjunction with the Simplot Games. The local chamber of commerce estimates the event brings a \$900,000 boost to the Pocatello economy.

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